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Education 7201

December 12, 2010

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Reflection 3

Educational issues are constantly emerging and changing. Everyday new politics and laws are passed that affect the educational system and the overall production of how schools should be run. Teachers, parents and students need to attempt to follow these issues in order to understand what changes will take affect and why. However, it is virtually impossible for someone to follow all issues occurring in a society. More importantly, researchers and practitioners tend to have different beliefs on what practices should be enforced in the classroom due to the needs of the students.

Teachers need to engage in critical self-reflection, collaborate with others, and incorporate social justice in order to analyze the effectiveness of one’s lesson, strategy and/or belief. Thus, all teachers unknowingly become researchers and/or practitioners since all teachers reflect and improve upon their own strategies and practices. For instance, some teachers make their students engage in independent reading early in the morning only to find half the class to be falling asleep. Therefore, these teachers decided to switch independent reading with a different time block and found students read better after lunch. The changing of the instructional time for reading is called Action Research.

Action research is a process of reflectively analyzing and investigating a theory or topic in need of a change. In all action research, researchers and practitioners first have to identify the problem and then propose a way to change this problem. Action research pertains more to teachers because teachers are often faced with problems that affect their ability to successfully carry out a lesson and the student’s ability to learn.

After viewing my classmates Action Research Presentations, I have become more aware of issues I might face in my own classroom. These action researches help myself and others realize we are not alone in facing similar issues that come up in our own classrooms. Teachers can view other teacher’s action researches to come up with ideas of what strategies may be more beneficial to students. It is also interesting to see how the findings and/or ideas of an action research might have changed over the years. In truth, society, students and their needs are changing. Therefore action research is extremely crucial in understanding how to reach and aid students in their success.